

CHAPTER NO. 464

HOUSE BILL NO. 195

By Representatives Kisber, McDaniel and Mr. Speaker Naifeh and Representatives Todd, Robinson, Caldwell, Ferguson, Whitson, Winningham, Pleasant, Kernell, Ronnie Davis, Cooper, Fitzhugh, Rinks, Ronnie Cole, Pinion, Walley, Kent, Ralph Cole, West, Bone, Patton, Ford, Bittle, Boyer, Miller, Brooks, Boyer, Lois DeBerry, Towns, Stulce, Walker

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 57

By Senators Cohen, Rochelle, Kurita, Springer, Cooper, Carter, Ford, Dixon, Crowe

AN ACT to name certain weigh stations, rest areas and welcome centers located on the "Music Highway" and to provide for the erection of appropriate signage at such locations.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played an instrumental role in the growth, development and popularity of various forms of American music; and

WHEREAS, Memphis is undisputedly both the birthplace and cradle of the blues, and the Bluff City is also a quality purveyor of gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz; and

WHEREAS, Memphis is the home of such notable record labels as the legendary Sun Records and the world renowned Stax Records; and

WHEREAS, while the magnificent history of country music has been written throughout these United States, Nashville proudly keeps the eternal flame for the past, present and future of this great American art form; and

WHEREAS, Nashville's pre-eminence as "Music City, U.S.A." is demonstrated by its enviable status as a recording mecca for artists of many different musical genres; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the bountiful musical heritages possessed by Memphis and Nashville, many points in between these two fine cities on the "Music Highway" are notable for the music and/or musicians such locales have produced, including Jackson, Nutbush, Luttrell, Tiptonville, Brownsville and Hurricane Mills; and

WHEREAS, in order to remind Tennesseans and visitors of our state's many valuable contributions to American popular music, Chapter No. 124 of the Public Acts of 1997 designated Interstate Highway 40 from the eastern boundary of Davidson County to the Mississippi River in Shelby County as the "Music Highway"; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the directives of Public Chapter No. 124, the Department of Tourist Development is publishing a book about the "Music Highway"; this seminal publication will list areas and sites of musical interest along the "Music Highway" and delineate Tennessee's important role in the history, growth and development of American popular music; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly strongly feels that the designation of certain rest areas, weigh stations and welcome centers on the "Music Highway" in honor of various Tennessee musical artists, events and entities will spark interest among tourists and citizens regarding Tennessee's rich musical heritage and inspire them to learn more about Tennessee's prominent place in the pantheon of American popular music; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the rest areas, parking areas, weigh stations and welcome center located on the "Music Highway" (Interstate Highway 40 from the eastern boundary of Davidson County to the Mississippi River in Shelby County) are hereby designated as follows:

(1) eastbound rest area on I-40 in Dickson County - "Roy Acuff/George Jones Rest Area";

(2) westbound rest area on I-40 in Dickson County - "Johnny Cash Rest Area";

(3) eastbound rest area on I-40 in Benton County - "Loretta Lynn/Hank Williams, Sr. Rest Area";

(4) westbound rest area on I-40 in Benton County - "Patsy Cline/Chet Atkins Rest Area";

(5) eastbound parking area on I-40 in Henderson County - "Eddy Arnold Parking Area";

(6) westbound parking area on I-40 in Henderson County - "Al Green Parking Area";

(7) eastbound rest area on I-40 in Madison County - "Carl Perkins Rest Area";

(8) westbound rest area on I-40 in Madison County - "Isaac Hayes Rest Area/Tina Turner Rest Area";

(9) eastbound weigh station on I-40 in Haywood County - "Booker T. and the MG's/Stax Records Weigh Station";

(10) westbound weigh station on I-40 in Haywood County - "Sam Phillips/Sun Studios Weigh Station"; and

(11) eastbound welcome center on I-40 in Shelby County at Riverside Drive - Elvis Presley/B.B. King Welcome Center".

(b) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect and maintain suitable signs adjacent to a suitable walkway to be designated as the "Rufus Thomas *Walking the Dog* Trail" at the rest area designated by subsection (a)(8).

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Transportation is directed to affix and maintain suitable signs or markers on any pre-existing directional, informational, or specific service sign or marker on Interstate 40 at Exit 148 (State Route 50) in Hickman County, both eastbound and westbound, indicating that State Route 50 from its intersection with Interstate 40 eastward to its intersection with State Route 100 in Centerville is designated as "The Minnie Pearl Memorial Parkway".

(d) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect and maintain directional signs on Interstate 40 at Exit 56 (State Route 76) in Haywood County, both eastbound and westbound, for the "Sleepy John Estes West Tennessee Heritage Center".

SECTION 2.

(a) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers at the aforementioned locations designating such rest areas, parking areas, weigh stations and welcome center as provided in Section 1(a).

(b) Such signs shall bear a logo or design with musical connotations. Such logo or design could include, but should not necessarily be limited to, representations of musical notes or musical instruments.

(c) Such signs shall be designed by the Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Department of Tourist Development.

SECTION 3. The designations provided for in Section 1(a) shall also be included, as appropriate, on all highway signs erected and maintained at and for the respective rest areas, parking areas, weigh stations and welcome center designated by this act.

SECTION 4. The erection of all signs provided for in this act shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 6. The Department of Tourist Development and the Department of Transportation are urged and encouraged, within existing resources, to place at each designated rest area, parking area or welcome center a graphic display which depicts, through words and pictures, the musical history and heritage of the area in which the rest area, parking area or welcome center is located. Such graphic display should include background and historical information on such area's musical history and heritage and specific information on the musical artist or entity for whom the rest area, parking area or welcome center is named.

SECTION 7. The Department of Transportation, Department of Tourist Development and all other state agencies that print Tennessee maps are directed to include the "Music Highway" designation and the designations of the rest areas, parking areas and welcome station named by this act at appropriate locations on official Tennessee highway maps and other Tennessee maps, when such inclusion is feasible.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 24, 1999



JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 17th day of June 1999



DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR